

FBIS 49

DIA DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON F

(TASS ON 'SHIELD-72')

L 151405 MOSCOW TASS INTERNATIONAL INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH  
1343 GMT 15 SEP 72 L

(GUARANTEE OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM--TASS)

(TEXT) PRAGUE SEPTEMBER 15 TASS--THE JOINT EXERCISES OF TROOPS AND STAFFS OF THE ARMIES OF THE WARSAW TREATY MEMBER-STATES, "SHIELD-72", NOW HELD IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SHOW THE HIGH COMBAT AND POLITICAL TRAINING OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE FRATERNAL ARMIES WHO BRILLIANTLY SOLVE THEIR TASKS IN COMPLEX CONDITIONS. TAKING PART IN THE EXERCISES ARE UNITS OF THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY, THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ARMY OF THE GDR, THE POLISH ARMY, THE SOVIET ARMY AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE'S ARMY.

DURING THE EXERCISES, THE STAFFS OF THE ALLIED ARMIES SHOW GREAT EFFICIENCY IN ORGANISING INTERACTION OF THE UNITS OF THE GROUND TROOPS WITH THE AIR FORCE AND THE LANDING TROOPS.

IN THEIR SPARE TIME, SOLDIERS OF THE ALLIED ARMIES HAVE MEETINGS WITH CZECHOSLOVAK WORKING PEOPLE IN A FRIENDLY, CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE. THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITS OF THE SOVIET ARMY VISITED WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE PRAGUE ENTERPRISE "CKD". MEMBER OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE PRAGUE CITY COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA A. KAPEK SPOKE AT THE MEETING. HE SAID THAT THE JOINT EXERCISES OF THE FRATERNAL ARMIES ARE AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT POLITICAL EVENT.

THE DEFENSIVE MIGHT OF THE WARSAW TREATY MEMBER-STATES IS A STRONG BULWARK AGAINST THE AGGRESSIVE IMPERIALIST GROUPINGS, THE SPEAKER STRESSED.

15 SEP 1519Z WJ/CAJ

FBIS 39

SHIELD-72 OPERATION DESCRIBED

L 151147 PRAGUE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN CZECH 1030 GMT 15 SEP 72 L

(TEXT) ONE OF THE MOST EXTENSIVE ALLIED EXERCISES OF THE ARMIES OF THE WARSAW TREATY, SHIELD-72, IS REACHING ITS CLIMAX ON THE TERRITORY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

AFTER A SHORT PAUSE IN THE FIGHTING, FURTHER ACTIONS CONTINUED TODAY IN THE MORNING HOURS. UNITS OF THE SOVIET AND CZECHOSLOVAK ARMIES TOGETHER ATTACKED THE HASTILY ESTABLISHED ENEMY DEFENSES IN FORESTS AND MOUNTAINOUS AREAS.

THE COMBAT ACTIONS ARE BEING WATCHED FROM OBSERVATION POSTS BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA VASIL BILAK AND LUBOMIR STROUGAL, CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE VACLAV HULA, SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA VACLAV SVOBODA, MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA MIROSLAV MOC, SOVIET MINISTER OF DEFENSE MARSHAL ANDREY GRECHKO, AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE JOINT ARMED FORCES OF THE WARSAW TREATY STATES MARSHAL IVAN YAKUBOVSKIY.

THE EXERCISE IS BEING DIRECTED BY CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ARMY GENERAL MARTIN DZUR.

COMBAT EQUIPMENT IS ON THE ATTACK STARTING LINE. FOLLOWING A SHORT ARTILLERY PREPARATION, TANKS AND ARMORED CARRIERS ARE DRIVING OUT FROM THEIR CAMOUFLAGED POSITIONS. THE CZECHOSLOVAK AND SOVIET DRIVERS ARE NEGOTIATING ALL GROUND OBSTACLES IN CLOSE TEAMWORK, MANEUVERING PERFECTLY. TANKS AND ARMORED CARRIERS ARE PERFECTLY FULFILLING THEIR LIVE-FIRE TASKS. THE ATTACK IS BEING SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY POSITIONED IN A FOREST, AS WELL AS BY AIRCRAFT. ALSO PARTICIPATING IS A HELICOPTER-BORNE FORMATION. RIFLEMEN ARE JUMPING OUT FROM CARRIERS ON THE MOVE AND LIQUIDATING, IN DISCIPLINED FORMATIONS, THE REMAINING POINTS OF THE DEFENDING AND FLEEING ENEMY.

15 SEP 1252Z WJ/CAJ

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AMS 17 Approved For Release 2001/09/04 : CIA-RDP93T01468R000100080005-6  
NIGHTLEAD MANEUVERS (CHANGING DATELINE)

BY JAN KRCMAR

PRAGUE CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SEPT. 12, REUTER - AN ESTIMATED 100,000 RUSSIAN, EAST GERMAN, HUNGARIAN, POLISH AND CZECHOSLOVAK TROOPS SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY, TANKS AND WARPLANES TODAY STARTED ONE OF THE BIGGEST WAR GAMES IN THE HISTORY OF THE WARSAW PACT.

THE EXERCISES ARE BEING HELD IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA UNDER THE CODE NAME "SHIELD 72." THEIR MOTTO: "THE WARSAW TREATY--THE SHIELD OF SOCIALISM." THE STRESS IS ON THE TREATY'S DEFENSIVE CHARACTER

WHEN THE MANEUVERS STARTED UNDER THE OVERALL COMMAND OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL MARTIN DZUR, CZECHOSLOVAK AND HUNGARIAN TROOPS LAUNCHED A MASSIVE COUNTER-ATTACK AGAINST "INVADING" FORCES.

REPORTING ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WAR GAMES, THE CZECHOSLOVAK NEWS AGENCY CETEKA SAID THE ACTION OF BOTH THE CZECHOSLOVAK AND HUNGARIAN FORCES WAS "CHARACTERIZED BY HIGHLY ACTIVE FORMS OF BATTLE, MANEUVERABILITY, DYNAMICS, SPEED AND ADAPTABILITY TO SUDDEN CHANGES IN THE SITUATION."  
MORE LEN/ A1426

AMS 18

NIGHTLEAD MANEUVERS 2 PRAGUE

TROOPS FROM BULGARIA AND ROMANIA ARE ABSENT FROM "SHIELD 72," BUT BOTH HAVE SENT THEIR MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AS OBSERVERS. A DELEGATION FROM MONGOLIA, WHICH LIES BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA IS ALSO PRESENT.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS YEAR'S WARSAW PACT WAR GAMES IS BELIEVED TO BE THE TESTING OF THE READINESS OF TROOPS TO REPULSE A DIRECT THRUST FROM THE WEST AIMED AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND EAST GERMANY.

BULGARIA AND ROMANIA FORM THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF THE PACT'S DEFENSES, AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE BROUGHT IMMEDIATELY INTO ACTION IN THE EVENT OF A REAL THRUST FROM THE WEST.

AS THE WARSAW PACT EXERCISES STARTED, MILITARY PLANNERS OF NATO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION, MADE FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE BIGGEST LAND, SEA AND AIR MANEUVERS IN THE HISTORY OF THE 23-YEAR-OLD WESTERN DEFENSE ALLIANCE.

(CODE-NAMED "STRONG EXPRESS," THE TWO-WEEK NATO EXERCISES START ON THURSDAY.

ABOUT 64,000 MEN, 700 AIRCRAFT AND 300 SHIPS WILL BE INVOLVED IN OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE NORTH ATLANTIC, HIGHLIGHTED BY AMPHIBIOUS LANDINGS IN NORTHERN NORWAY.

ELEVEN OF NATO'S 15 MEMBER NATIONS -- BELGIUM, BRITAIN, CANADA, DENMARK, WEST GERMANY, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, PORTUGAL AND THE UNITED STATES-- WILL HAVE TROOPS IN THE EXERCISES. THE FRENCH NAVY WILL CARRY OUT MINESWEEPING OPERATIONS ALONG THE FRENCH COAST.  
REUTER LEN/MJ 1438

Approved For Release 2001/09/04 : CIA-RDP93T01468R000100080005-6

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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ACTION DIA: DIA(20)

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FM USDAO PRAGUE

TO DIA

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L 282 SEP 72

DIA FOR DI-3D2 AND AA-4, SUBJ: EXERCISE SHIELD 72(U)

REF: DIA MSG DTG 161636Z AUG 72, RUDE PRAVO REPORTED FOLLOWING:

1. AT 9 SEP NEWS CONFERENCE IN PRAGUE, GEN V. HORACEK, CHIEF OF CZECH ARMY'S MAIN POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION, POINTED OUT SHIELD 72 WILL BE ONE OF THE LARGEST WARSAW PACT (WP) EXERCISES EVER, WITH HUNGARIAN, E. GERMAN, POLISH, SOVIET, AND CZECH UNITS TAKING PART, AND WITH REPS OF BULGARIAN AND ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES, AS WELL AS MILITARY DELEGATIONS FROM OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES (UNNAMED), ATTENDING AS OBSERVERS. MORE THAN 33,000 WP TROOPS HAVE TAKEN PART IN MEETINGS WITH WORKING PEOPLE IN INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AND CO-OP FARMS. SHIELD 72 WILL BE HELD UNDER COMMANDERSHIP OF CZECH DEFENSE MINISTER GEN MARTIN DZUR.

2. CHIEF CMDR OF WP ARMED FORCES SOVIET MARSHAL I. I. YAKUBOVSKI AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF WP FORCES SOVIET GEN S. M. SHTYEMENKO ARRIVED IN BRATISLAVA 10 SEP AND WERE MET BY DZUR AND SLOVAK PREMIER COLOTKA.

3. A FIELD DAILY, "SHIELD," IS BEING PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED AMONG MEN AND OFFICERS TAKING PART IN SHIELD 72.

GDS 31 DEC 78.

BT

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ANNOTES

GAF 483

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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MANEUVERS (SCHEDULED)

VIENNA, EPT. 12, REUTER -- THOUSANDS OF SOVIET BLOC TROOPS BACKED BY ARMOR SWEEP ACROSS CZECHOSLOVAKIA TODAY IN WAR GAMES INTENDED TO TEST NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES.

THE FIVE-NATION EXERCISE HAS BEEN BILLED AS ONE OF THE BIGGEST -- AND PROBABLY MOST REALISTIC -- EVER STAGED BY FORCES OF THE COMMUNIST WARSAW PACT.

EASTERN DIPLOMATS SEE THE MANEUVERS AS STRATEGICALLY TIMED TO FLEX COMMUNIST MUSCLES BEFORE EAST-WEST TALKS BEGIN THIS FALL ON PREPARING A EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE.

SOVIET, CZECHOSLOVAK, EAST GERMAN, HUNGARIAN AND POLISH UNITS ARE TAKING PART IN THE GAMES AFTER A HEAVY PUBLICITY BUILDUP BY COMMUNIST MASS MEDIA.

ROMANIA AND BULGARIA ARE REPRESENTED BY OBSERVER MISSIONS, BUT HAVE ALSO SENT THEIR DEFENSE MINISTERS.

ALTHOUGH LOCATIONS ARE STILL SECRET, COMMAND HEADQUARTERS APPEAR TO BE AT BRATISLAVA, THE SLOVAK CAPITAL, ONLY 40 MILES FROM VIENNA. PARTICIPATING TROOPS ATTENDED A CEREMONIAL INAUGURAL RALLY THERE YESTERDAY.

CODENAMED "SHIELD 72" TO SYMBOLIZE DEFENSE AGAINST "AGGRESSIVE AIMS OF IMPERIALISM," THE MANEUVERS ARE EXPECTED TO INVOLVE MORE THAN 100,000 MEN.

THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL ADVANCE HINTS THAT THE FIRST BIG SCALE COMMUNIST MILITARY EXERCISE FOR TWO YEARS IS INTENDED TO COORDINATE OPERATIONS IN CONDITIONS SIMULATING A TACTICAL NUCLEAR CONFRONTATION CLOSE TO THE SOVIET BLOC WESTERN BORDERS.

MORE WRM/PL 0229

PMS 10

MANEUVERS 2 VIENNA

GEN. MARTIN DZUR, CZECHOSLOVAK DEFENSE MINISTER AND COMMANDER OF THE MANEUVERS, SAID YESTERDAY THEY WERE DESIGNED TO IMPROVE INTER-ARMY COOPERATION AND STAFF WORK IN JOINT ACTIVITIES IN COMPLEX GROUND AND AIR SITUATIONS.

THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL EXPLANATION FOR THE ABSENCE OF ROMANIAN AND BULGARIAN TROOPS. ROMANIA HAS REFUSED TO ALLOW JOINT MANEUVERS ON ITS TERRITORY, AND SENT A 300-MAN STAFF CONTINGENT TO THE LAST WARSAW PACT EXERCISE IN EAST GERMANY IN 1970.

APART FROM ROMANIA POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE, THE TWO SOUTHERN NATIONS MAY HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED BECAUSE THE PRESENT GAMES APPEAR TO BE INTENDED PRIMARILY TO TEST THE COMMUNIST NORTHERN TIER IN EUROPE.

THIS IS THE AREA THAT WOULD BE MOST VULNERABLE TO LOW-GRADE TACTICAL NUCLEAR ATTACK FROM WESTERN FORCES BASED IN WEST GERMANY.

EAST EUROPEAN DEFENSE MINISTERS WERE JOINED IN BRATISLAVA BY SOVIET MARSHAL IVAN YAKUBOVSKY, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF WARSAW PACT FORCES. ALSO THERE IS A DELEGATION FROM MONGOLIA, THE COMMUNIST BUFFER STATE WHICH LIES BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA.

COMMUNIST LEADERS HAVE SAID THE GAMES ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE CONTINUING VIGILANCE IS NEEDED AGAINST THE WEST DESPITE EFFORTS FOR A EUROPEAN DETENTE. THE MANEUVERS HAVE ALSO BEEN DESCRIBED AS AN ANSWER TO "PROVOCATIVE" TWO WEEK NATO NORTH ATLANTIC EXERCISES STARTING ON THURSDAY.

SLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER JOSEF LENART SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE CHOICE OF CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY FOUR YEARS AFTER WARSAW PACT ARMIES CRUSHED A SHORT-LIVED CZECHOSLOVAK REFORMIST MOVEMENT GAVE THE COUNTRY A CHANCE TO PROVE ITS READINESS TO FULFILL BLOC COMMITMENTS

REUTER WRM/PL 0235  
Approved For Release 2001/09/04 : CIA-RDP93T01468R000100080005-6

FBIS 02 (SEE 78 OF 5 SEP)

ADN REPORTS ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH WARSAW PACT MANEUVERS

L 060052Z EAST BERLIN ADN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN GERMAN 2259 GMT  
5 SEP 72 L

(BY ADN CORRESPONDENT)

(TEXT) PRAGUE--TROOPS OF THE ALLIED ARMIES ARRIVED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR THE SHIELD 72 MANEUVERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN OF THE COMMAND OF THE WARSAW PACT JOINT FORCES. THE FIRST FRIENDLY MEETINGS WITH WORKING PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. CPCZ AND NATIONAL FRONT OFFICIALS AND DEPUTIES CORDIALLY WELCOMED THE SOLDIERS OF THE FRATERNAL SOCIALIST ARMIES. YOUNG PEOPLE HAD ANIMATED CONVERSATIONS IN FACTORIES AND SCHOOLS WITH VISITING DELEGATIONS OF THE FRATERNAL ARMIES. AT MANY CAMP BROTHERHOOD-IN-ARMS MEETINGS, COMMANDERS, POLITICAL WORKERS AND SOLDIERS OF THE VARIOUS SERVICES EXCHANGED INFORMATION.

MEMBERS OF THE GDR NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ARMY, TOGETHER WITH THEIR POLISH AND CZECHOSLOVAK MILITARY COMPANIONS, SPENT EVENTFUL HOURS IN THE OLD WINE TOWN OF MELNIK, DECKED WITH RED FLAGS AND STREAMERS.

AFTER AN ANIMATED EXCHANGE WITH FIRST SECRETARY OF THE CPCZ DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DR VACLAV SINDELAR, COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE MAYOR, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRIENDLY ARMIES HONORED THE HEROES OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE HITLER ARMIES. THEY PLACED WREATHS AT THE MONUMENT TO THE GLORIOUS SOVIET ARMY FIGHTERS. SOLDIERS OF THE KAROL SWIERCZEWSKI FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ARMY MARKED THE MEMORY OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE 2D POLISH ARMY UNDER GENERAL SWIERCZEWSKI, WHO ALONGSIDE THE RED ARMY HELPED LIBERATE MELNIK IN MAY 1945. THEY PLACED FLOWERS AT THE MEMORIAL TO THE FIRST FOREIGN HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION, CAPTAIN JAROS, TO HONOR THE CZECHOSLOVAK PATRIOT.

6 SEP 0157Z JPC/GG

AFLN: 55994 W INFO: IN-7 (8D)

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ACTION DIA(20)

DISTR CJCS DJS J5(02) NMCC J31(04) SECDEF(07) ASDISA(10)

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TO RUEKJCS/DIA

INFO RUSNAAA/USCINCEUR

RUFDAAA/CINCUSAREUR

RUFTSWA/CINCUSAFE

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC

RUESSA/USDAO SOFIA

RUESAR/USDAO BUCHAREST

RUESRP/USDAO PRAGUE

RUESRW/USDAO WARSAW

RUEHMO/USDAO MOSCOW

RUESDA/USDAO BUDAPEST

BT

UNCLAS E F T O 0440 SEP 72 DIA FOR DI-3D2

USAREUR FOR AEAGB-C(CM) AND AEAGB-PDN(MC); USAFE FOR INO

SUBJ: SHIELD 72 (U)

REF: SICR D-3XX-49029, PROJECT SWIFT HAWK (U)

CC  
Return to MS

[PRAGUE TANJUG REPORTER STATES THAT (1) MARSHALL YAKUBOVSKI  
IS THE COMMANDER OF THE SO-CALLED JOINT FORCES; (2)  
EXERCISE WILL START IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK;  
(3) ROMANIAN ARMY WILL NOT BE PARTICIPATING.]

BT

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ANNOTES

WMM 483

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FBIS 33

72  
**WARSAW PACT EXERCISES 'SHIELD AGAINST' 'IMPERIALIST AIMS'**

L061056 PRAGUE CTK INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH 0948 GMT  
 6 SEP 72 L

(TEXT) PRAGUE SEPT 6 CETEKA--IN HARMONY WITH THE FORTHCOMING JOINT EXERCISES OF THE JOINT ARMED FORCES OF THE WARSAW TREATY STATES, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE UNDER THE NAME 'SHIELD 72' ON THE TERRITORY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC THIS AUTUMN, THE UNITS AND STAFFS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE'S ARMY ARE UNDERGOING INTENSIVE PREPARATIONS.

JOINT EXERCISES ARE OF EXTRAORDINARY IMPORTANCE FOR FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE COMBAT READINESS AND COORDINATION OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE WARSAW TREATY MEMBER STATES. THEY HAVE SHOWN TRADITIONALLY THE HIGH DEGREE OF COMBAT READINESS OF TROOPS, RELIABILITY OF WEAPONRY, MASTERY IN ITS OPERATION, HIGH ORGANIZATION ABILITY OF COMMANDERS, STAFFS, POLITICAL BODIES, (COMMUNIST) PARTY AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS THE GOOD TRAINING AND MORAL, POLITICAL AND COMBAT QUALITIES OF MILITARY UNITS.

THIS YEAR'S JOINT EXERCISES WILL BE CALLED 'SHIELD 72', WHICH SYMBOLIZES THE DETERMINATION AND THE COMBAT, MORAL AND POLITICAL STRENGTH OF THE ARMY OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE A REAL SHIELD AGAINST THE AGGRESSIVE AIMS OF IMPERIALISM.

IMPERIALIST FORCES HAVE NOT GIVEN UP WAR AS A MEANS OF SETTling INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

THIS IS MOST OBVIOUS FROM THE PRESENT ENDEAVOUR OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC PACT, WHICH IS BEING USED ABOVE ALL BY THE U.S.A. AS THE MOST IMPORTANT TOOL OF THE POLICY 'FROM THE POSITION OF STRENGTH'.

UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THE PENTAGON, THE NATO COUNTRIES WERE FORCED TO INCREASE MILITARY EXPENDITURE BY 1,000 MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR AND TO MAKE THUS A GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF IMPERIALIST ARMED FORCES. THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE OF THE NATO ARMIES IS AIMED AT A RAPID TRANSITION, WITH MAXIMUM SECRECY FROM THE STATE OF PEACE INTO A STATE OF WAR, WITH THE ABILITY TO WAGE ALL KINDS OF WAR INCLUDING NUCLEAR ONE.

NAVAL MANOEUVRES UNDER AMERICAN COMMAND WERE HELD IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE NORTH SEA AND THE SOUTH-EASTERN ATLANTIC AT THE END OF APRIL THIS YEAR AS PART OF THE STEPPING UP OF PROVOCATIONS BEHIND THE BORDERS OF THE SOCIALIST CAMP. A SIMILAR ACTION TOOK PLACE IN THE FIRST HALF OF MAY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, AN AREA NOT ONLY NEAR THE HOTBED OF TENSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT ALSO IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE SOUTHERN BORDERS OF THE SOCIALIST CAMP. MANOEUVRES OF NATO AIR FORCES WERE HELD ON THE TERRITORY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ROUGHLY AT THE SAME TIME.

THIS LIST WOULD BE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT THE SEPTEMBER NATO MANOEUVRES, NAMED 'STRONG EXPRESS', WHICH RANK BY THEIR EXTENT AMONG IMPORTANT MILITARY MEASURES OF THIS AGGRESSIVE GROUPING.

A FOREMOST PLACE IN THE PLANS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC PACT IS TAKEN BY PREPARATIONS FOR DESTRUCTIVE NUCLEAR WAR. BY MEANS OF THIS MOST TERRIBLE WEAPON OF MODERN HISTORY IMPERIALISM WOULD LIKE TO PUT AN END TO SOCIALISM ONCE AND FOR ALL.

'SHIELD 72' IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOCIALIST CAMP'S DEFENCE CAPACITY AGAINST THE THREATS OF IMPERIALISM. IT WILL BECOME AN IMPORTANT MOMENT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION, JOINT PREPARATIONS AND A BROAD EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE AMONG THE FRATERNAL SOCIALIST ARMIES--WARSAW TREATY MEMBERS, A MEANS OF STRENGTHENING THEIR COMBAT READINESS, MORAL, POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNITY. IT WILL BE AN INSEPARABLE PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL LINE BY CONSTRUCTION AND DEFENCE OF SOCIALISM, WORKED OUT BY THE 24TH CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE 14TH CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE CONGRESSES OF THE OTHER FRATERNAL PARTIES. IT WILL BE AN EXPRESSION OF THE LASTING AND LOGICAL CARE OF THE COMMUNIST AND WORKERS PARTIES OF THE WARSAW TREATY COUNTRIES FOR PURPOSEFUL AND SYSTEMATIC GROWTH OF THE DEFENCE MIGHT OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. THE JOINT EXERCISES 'SHIELD 72' WILL ALSO BECOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE WORKING PEOPLE AND YOUTH WITH OUR CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE'S ARMY AND THE OTHER FRATERNAL ARMIES, AT THE HEAD WITH THE HEROIC SOVIET ARMY--OUR LIBERATOR.

6 SEP 1220Z BW/CAJ



FBIS 58

**SHIELD 72 EXERCISES END, CONCLUDING CEREMONY**

L 151431 PRAGUE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN CZECH 1230 GMT 15 SEP 72 L

(TEXT) **SHIELD 72** ONE OF THE MOST EXTENSIVE ALLIED COMBAT EXERCISES OF THE WARSAW PACT ARMIES, WHICH BEGAN ON CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY ON 12 SEPTEMBER, ENDED BEFORE NOON TODAY WITH A FINAL CEREMONY.

IT WAS THE CLIMAX OF SUCCESSFUL FULFILLMENT OF ALL THE COMBAT TASKS OF PARTICIPATING UNITS OF THE ALLIED ARMIES OF THE WARSAW PACT--THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY, THE GDR NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ARMY, THE POLISH PEOPLE'S ARMY, THE SOVIET ARMY AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE'S ARMY. IT PROVED WHAT AN IRREPLACEABLE ROLE IN THE ACTIVE DEFENSE OF PEACE AND THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IS PLAYED BY THE SOCIALIST ARMIES AND THE ENTIRE WARSAW PACT DEFENSE COMMUNITY, HEADED BY THE SOVIET ARMY.

**SHIELD 72** WAS DIRECTED BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL DEFENSE MINISTER, ARMY GEN MARTIN DZUR.

IN AN AREA WITH A FESTIVELY DECORATED STAND FLYING THE STATE FLAGS OF WARSAW PACT MEMBER-STATES, FIELD UNITS WITH COMBAT EQUIPMENT OF ALL THE FIVE ARMIES THAT TOOK PART IN THE EXERCISE WERE RANGED.

MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE CPCZ CENTRAL COMMITTEE PREMIER LUBOMIR STROUGAL, CPCZ CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY VASIL BILAK, CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE CPCZ CENTRAL COMMITTEE PRESIDUM VACLAV HULA, CPCZ CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY VACLAV SVOBODA, MEMBER OF THE CPCZ CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT MIROSLAV MOC AS WELL AS OTHER OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGIUM OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE MINISTRY, GENERALS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE'S ARMY AND OTHER GUESTS TOOK THEIR PLACES IN THE HONOR STAND BEARING THE SLOGAN "WARSAW TREATY, A SHIELD OF SOCIALISM."

THE CONCLUDING CEREMONY OF **SHIELD 72** WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE JOINT ARMED FORCES OF THE WARSAW PACT STATES MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION IVAN I. YAKUBOVSKIY, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE JOINT ARMED FORCES ARMY GEN SERGEY M. SHTEMENKO AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MAIN COMMAND OF THE JOINT ARMED FORCES.

PRESENT WERE A SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION LED BY USSR DEFENSE MINISTER MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION ANDREY A. GRECHKO AND MILITARY DELEGATIONS OF ARMIES OF WARSAW PACT MEMBER-COUNTRIES AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HEADED BY THEIR HIGHEST MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES.

THE CONCLUDING CEREMONY WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY THE MILITARY, AIR AND NAVAL ATTACHES OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

BEFORE THE STAND WERE RANGED FRONTRANKING TROOPS IN WHITE HELMETS WHO SPELLED OUT THE NAME OF THE EXERCISE. BEHIND THEM WERE SOLDIERS OF THE ALLIED ARMIES IN COLORED HELMETS REPRESENTING THE FLAGS OF STATES OF THE FIVE PARTICIPATING ARMIES.

CPCZ FIRST DEPUTY NATIONAL DEFENSE MINISTER LT GEN VASIL VALO REPORTED TO THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF **SHIELD 72**, NATIONAL DEFENSE MINISTER ARMY GEN MARTIN DZUR. THE ANTHEMS OF THE FIVE COUNTRIES TAKING PART IN THE EXERCISE WERE PLAYED.

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE EXERCISE WERE THEN ADDRESSED BY MEMBER OF THE CPCZ CENTRAL COMMITTEE PRESIDUM AND CZECHOSLOVAK PREMIER, LUBOMIR STROUGAL.

READ DURING THE CONCLUDING CEREMONY WERE ORDERS OF THE DAY OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE JOINT ARMED FORCES AND OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE EXERCISE ON THE GRANTING OF AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING FULFILLMENT OF THE TASKS OF THE EXERCISE. THE AWARDS WERE PERSONALLY MADE BY COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE JOINT ARMED FORCES MARSHAL OF THE SOVIET UNION IVAN I. YAKUBOVSKIY AND BY NATIONAL DEFENSE MINISTER ARMY GEN MARTIN DZUR. THE OUTSTANDING OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS WERE ALSO CONGRATULATED BY LEADING CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MILITARY DELEGATIONS AND OTHER PERSONALITIES.

AT THE END OF THE CEREMONY, NATIONAL DEFENSE MINISTER ARMY GEN MARTIN DZUR THANKED AND CONGRATULATED UNITS OF THE WARSAW PACT ARMIES TAKING PART IN THE EXERCISE. THE CONCLUDING CEREMONY ENDED WITH THE PLAYING OF THE INTERNATIONALE.

15 SEP 1631Z WJ/CAJ